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**From:** HJR153  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 11, 2004 12:49 PM  
**To:** HJR153  
**Subject:** HJR153 - Brian Eckert

Name: Brian Eckert  
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Utility Type: all  
Company Name: Dominion Virginia Power, Verizon, Comcast  
Comments: This message is in strong support of burying utility distribution lines. Burying lines is needed, desirable and feasible.

The need to so has been proven again and again by lengthy interruptions of service following hurricanes, snowstorms, thunderstorms and even "average" storms. I have lived in several other parts of the country, in geographically similar and dissimilar areas, and interruptions of service in Virginia are more frequent and lengthier than North Carolina, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and England. Burying lines would make them significantly less vulnerable to trees and wind. It also reduces the number of potential auto accident obstacles by removing utility poles from roadsides.

Burying lines is also desirable. Virginia's physical beauty lies largely in its landscape, in comparison with other states. Utility lines and poles are unsightly detriments of the first degree, harming civic pride, tourism, natural beauty and competition for economic development.

Burying lines is also feasible. Considering the huge cost of repairing lines following Hurricane Isabel alone, burying lines would easily pay for itself in reduced repairs after the next major hurricane or winter storm. While I am not expert enough to predict the actual figures, it appears quite sensible that burying lines in a state where trees and greenscapes easily and frequently interrupt service. I see it as a short-term economic decision to hang lines because that is initially cheaper, and a long-term decision to reduce outages and preserve the landscape that is less expensive and provides better service.